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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,509	03/20/2001	John Shannon	9958-002-27 CONT	1381

7590 09/10/2002
Supervisor, Patent Prosecution Services
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EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN LIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1632

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,509

Applicant(s)

SHANNON ET AL.

Examiner

Shin-Lin Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 23, 26, 28, 29 and 31, drawn to a method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water by using a sponge that harbors bacteria capable of concentrating said metals or minerals, classified in class 435, subclasses 325 and 243.
 - II. Claims 24 and 30, drawn to a method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water by using a sponge that harbors a transgenic bacteria capable of concentrating said metals or minerals, classified in class 435, subclasses 325 and 252.3.
 - III. Claims 25 and 32, drawn to a method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water by using a transgenic sponge that harbors a bacteria capable of concentrating said metals or minerals, classifiable in classes 800 and 435, subclasses 13 and 325.
 - IV. Claim 27, drawn to a method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water by using a *Cenarchaeum symbiosum*, classified in class 435, subclass 252.1.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Group I is patentably distinct from group II because they are drawn to materially different methods that use different materials: sponge plus bacteria vs sponge plus transgenic bacteria. A bacteria is different from a transgenic bacteria in their chemical structures and biological

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properties. They are methods that differ at least in materials used, doses and schedule used, and response variables. They have different classifications and require separate search. Thus, they are patentably distinct from each other.

Group III is patentably distinct from groups I and II because they are drawn to materially different methods that use different materials: transgenic sponge plus bacteria vs sponge plus bacteria or transgenic bacteria. A sponge is different from a transgenic sponge in their chemical structures, phenotypes and biological properties. They are methods that differ at least in materials used, doses and schedule used, and response variables. They have different classifications and require separate search. Thus, they are patentably distinct from each other.

Group IV is patentably distinct from groups I-III because they are drawn to materially different methods that use different materials: *Cenarchaeum symbiosum* vs transgenic sponge plus bacteria, and sponge plus bacteria or transgenic bacteria. A bacteria is different from a transgenic sponge harboring a bacteria or a sponge harboring a bacteria or a transgenic bacteria in their chemical structures, physical properties and biological functions. They are methods that differ at least in materials used, doses and schedule used, and response variables. They have different classifications and require separate search. Thus, they are patentably distinct from each other.

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Lin Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Priebe can be reached on (703) 308-7310. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-4242.

Questions of formal matters can be directed to the patent analyst, Patsy Zimmerman, whose telephone number is (703) 305-2758.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Shin-Lin Chen, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shin-Lin Chen".